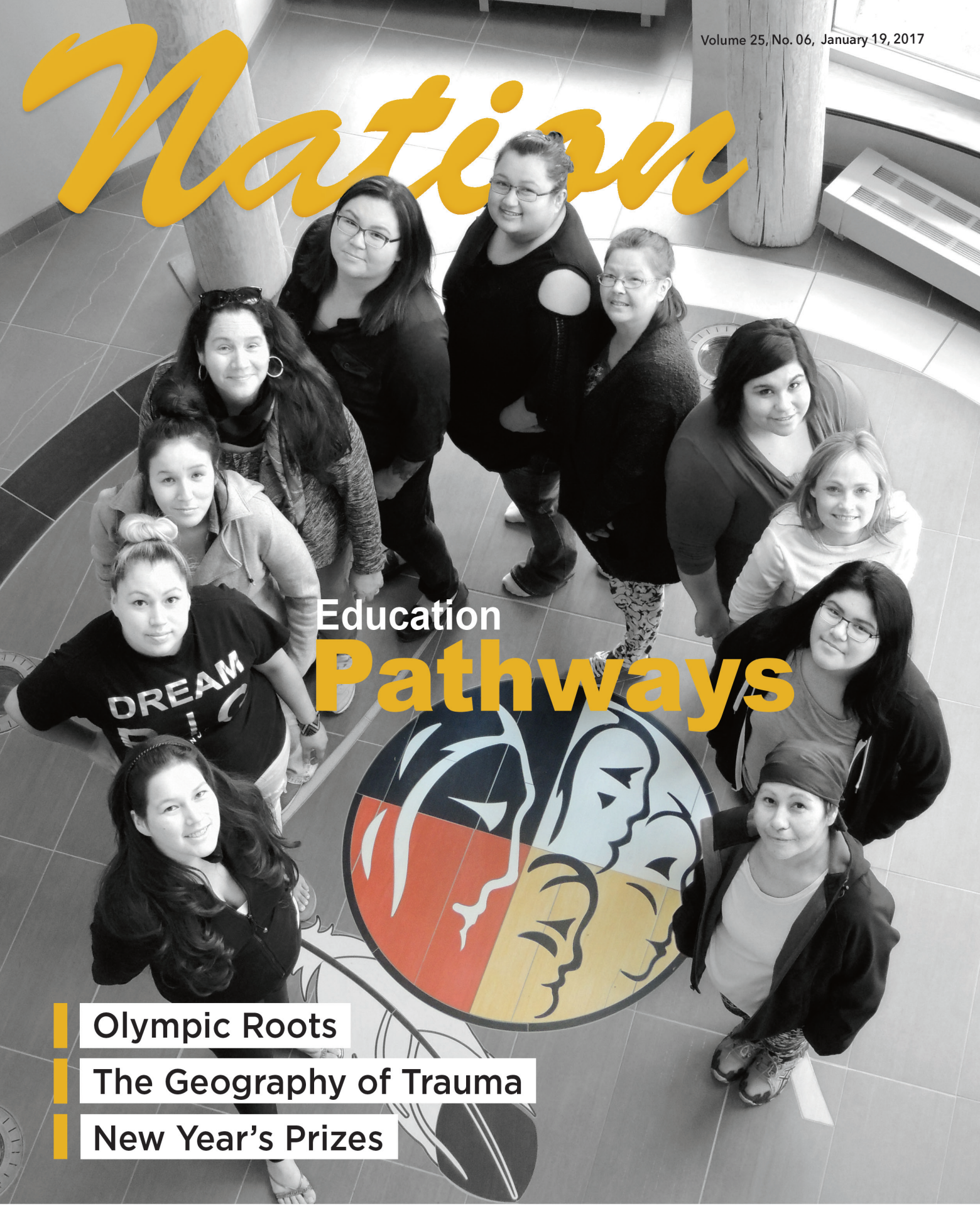
Volume 25, No. 06, January 19, 2017

Nation



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Photo by Catherine Orr

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government extends its most profound congratulations to Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum on his recent appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Recognized for his sustained leadership of, and dedication to, the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation and for his major contributions to the development of the Cree Nation and to the Eeyou Istchee Baie-James territory, Abel Bosum has always believed in thestrength of the people, the importance of community service, and that together, we can build a better country for everyone.

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government is enormously proud of your achievements.

Thank you for your tireless service and dedication to Eeyou Istchee.

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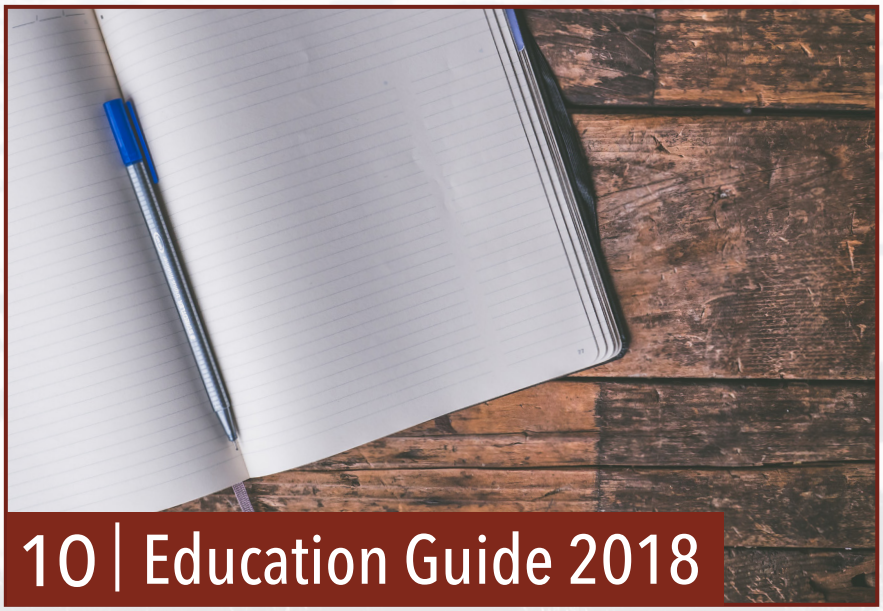

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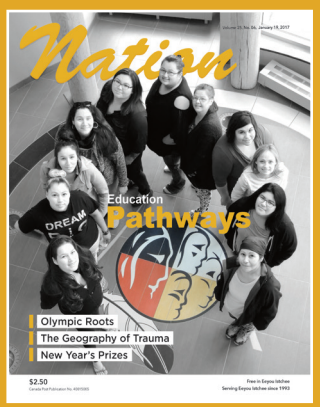

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Editorial

A letter to the senator

by Will Nicholls

Dear Senator Lynn Beyak, I see you're back in the news. Given your flair for putting the wrong foot forward, it comes as no surprise to anyone who follows Canadian politics. What is surprising is that it has taken so long for Andrew Scheer's Conservative Party to expel you from its caucus, following the recent addition of a Letters of Support section to your Senate website.

Senator, we understand that the letters section is intended to justify your notorious statements last year that residential schools were a good thing for generations of Native children in Canada. You also said that Indigenous people should trade in their status cards for Canadian citizenship, apparently not understanding that First Nations people born in Canada are already citizens.

Your move to have your supporters justify your statements obviously backfired as many of the letters contained viciously racist statements.

The letters are disturbing, to say the least. Global News reported that most of the 103 letters you posted had content that "could be described as racist or anti-Indigenous sentiments."

One example they highlighted said, "To expect the Canadian government to continue to subsidize a culture which is often damaging to new generations of Indigenous youth, is just bizarre."

Another letter claims that "the Indians, First Nations or whatever they want to be called have milked this issue to their decided advantage." It goes on to say that you shouldn't back down.

Ms. Beyak, it remains astonishing that you believe an "abundance of good" resulted from the residential school system.

One of your supporters takes NDP MP Romeo Saganash to task for calling residential schools an example of genocide. It shouldn't be a controversial statement; the United Nations definition of genocide includes "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

All of these things have taken place within Canada and at least two of those conditions apply to the Canadian residential school system.

Every senator is provided a page at sencanada.ca to showcase their many achievements, speeches, sponsored bills, photos, news releases and more. Each senator is responsible for the content. One has to ask: in what way should you be held responsible?

To say an abundance of good came out of this system is a blatant of attempt to whitewash a dark part of Canadian history. Likewise, Senator Beyak, you are either ignorant of or intentionally ignoring Section 35 of the Constitution Act, which recognizes Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Anyone who believes good could come out of genocide, who seeks to circumvent the Canadian constitution and who posts attacks against a part of the population on a government-funded website shows a lack of accountability required of those who represent the Canadian people.

Five of your fellow senators have requested an investigation into your website for potential violations of the Senate's code of conduct. Sadly, though you could be disciplined, you cannot be removed from the Senate for your questionable conduct.

You should do the right thing and resign. That you have refused to do so in the past and are unlikely to now shows the absolute need for Senate reform in Canada.

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New year **new toys**

by Dan Isaac

Festivities across Eeyou Istchee **bring joy and prizes**

Continuing the tradition of large community gatherings, many Eeyou communities hosted celebrations to ring in the New Year. And while every community handles their celebration differently, the family friendly events usually involved some combination of music, dancing, fireworks, games, contests, prizes, giveaways and raffles.

This year, the prizes were exceptional, and we'd like to congratulate the winners and planning committees that rang in the New Year right.

In Whapmagoostui, Rachel Sheshamush won the top prize in the community raffle: $150 in groceries and $50 in gas per week for the entire year. The local radio station gave Robbie Sam Dick a $4,000 prize for best light display in the community. There were also nightly draws for furniture and other goodies.

Meanwhile, Waswanipi's Bruno Blacksmith got lucky by winning Nemaska's snowmobile raffle.

In Eastmain, raffle tickets were included with turkey baskets distributed in the community. The top prize was a two-night stay for two in Montreal plus $750 spending money – that prize went to Lydia Shanush. Other prizes included a 60-inch TV to Tracy and Gerald Mayappo; a sofa and chair set to Kenneth and Leanne Gilpin; a table set to Brandon and Crystal Moses; a fridge and stove to Shawna Tomatuk; a washer and dryer to Terry and Francine Moses; and a queen-size bedroom set to Pauline Tomatuk.

According to Shelia Mark-Stewart, one of the winners was brought to tears when they heard the news. "Sometimes the prizes really help the families," she said.

A Chisasibi draw featured two snowmobiles. Kayla Shash took home the 200cc Mini Skidoo while Maggie Potts won the Tundra Sport 550. After the holidays, the Chisasibi Festivities Committee received many messages of gratitude on their Facebook page for a job well done.

In Mistissini, Matthew J. Wapatchee took home a GMC truck (donated by the Cree Nation of Mistissini) while Samuel Cox won a GMC Acadia (donated by A.D.E.L.S). Third prize of a Skandic 600 Etek snowmobile (donated by the Operations & Maintenance Department) went to Andrew N. Swallow. There was also a cash raffle with one prize of $5000 and three prizes of $1000. A slew of other prizes included two 55" TVs, a mini 4-wheeler, a washer dryer set, bedroom sets, living-room sets, an Apple bundle and more all donated by various sponsors.

Accompanying the festivities were musical performances and the Miss Mistissini Pageant, won by Alexandrea Coon. Savannah Blacksmith took home the Miss Congeniality award.

We'd like to congratulate the winners and planning committees **that rang in the New Year right.**

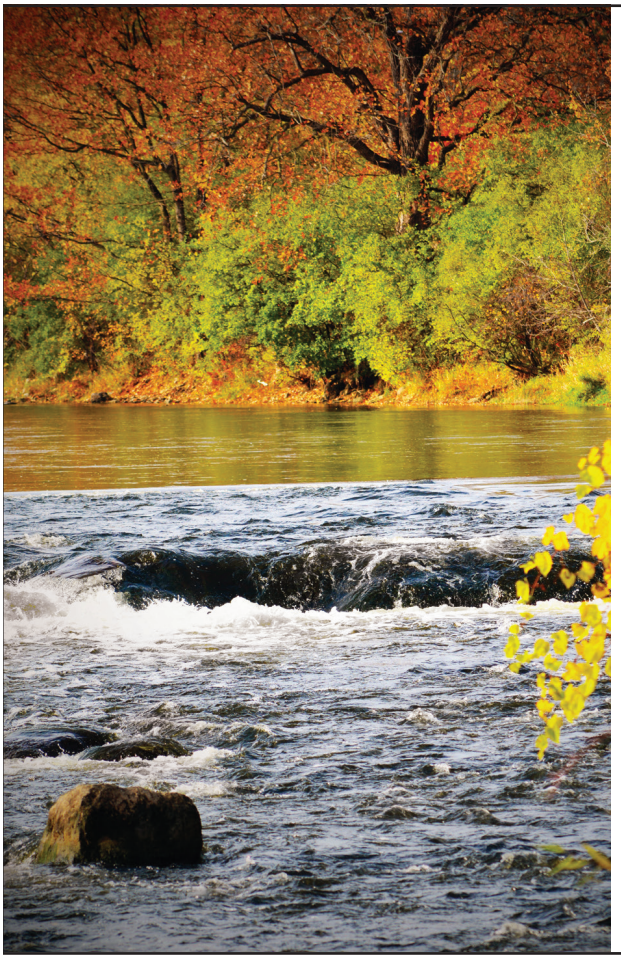

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Photo provided by Hockey Canada

Going for gold

Canadian First Nations well represented at 2018 Winter Olympics

by Dan Coyle

Both casual and hardcore sports fans from across Canada will be glued to screens for 17 days in February as athletes from around the world come together in PyeongChang, South Korea, for the XXIII Olympic Winter Games.

From Catriona Le May Doan's spectacular gold-medal performances in speedskating at the Nagano and Salt Lake City Games to Sidney Crosby's golden goal in Vancouver eight years ago, Canadians have been thrilled by the exploits of Canadian athletes as they vie to own the podium.

First Nations athletes have played an important role in building Canada's reputation as one of the world's leading sporting nations. Alwyn Morris, a Mohawk from Kahnawake, stoked First Nations pride when he became the first Canadian Aboriginal athlete to win Olympic gold with his victory in men's 1000-metre doubles kayaking at the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

> First Nations athletes have played an important role in building Canada's reputation as one of the **world's leading sporting nations.**

Morris' success came over 70 years after Canada sent its first Aboriginal athletes to the Olympics.

Joseph Benjamin Keeper, a member of the Norway House Cree First Nation in Manitoba, traveled to Stockholm to represent Canada at the 1912 Summer Games. Raised in residential school in Brandon, Manitoba, Keeper discovered a passion for long-distance running at a young age, and finished fourth in the 10,000-metre race in Stockholm.

Keeper was joined in Stockholm by another young Cree, Alexander Decoteau, who placed sixth in the 5000 metres. Decoteau would later swap his athletic gear for a military uniform, enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the height of the First World War, and was among the 15,000 Canadian soldiers killed during the Second Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

Twin sisters Shirley and Sharon Firth competed in Olympic cross-country skiing for Canada on four occasions between 1972 and 1984. Members of the Gwich'in First Nation in the Northwest Territories, the sisters amassed a combined 79 medals in national championship competition during a 17-year tenure with Canada's national cross-country ski team, and were the first Indigenous women to be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

More recently, Canadian Indigenous athletes bringing home Olympic hardware include hockey players Theo Fleury and Carey Price, while Métis curler Carolyn Darbyshire-McRorie claimed silver in 2010.

As of this publication date, a large number of Canadian Olympic team members have yet to be named. However, Canada's First Nations communities will be represented in PyeongChang by at least two elite athletes, including hockey player Brigette Lacquette and curler Kevin Koe.

Recognized alongside his family by the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories for their commitment to developing the sport of curling in northern communities, Koe will act as skip for the men's curling rink representing Canada in South Korea.

The 42-year-old brings a wealth of international experience to his first Olympic appearance, including gold medal wins at the 2006 and 2010 World Curling Championships, and a trio of gold medal victories at the Brier as a member of Team Alberta.

Koe leads a world class curling squad that features Marc Kennedy, Brent Laing, Ben Hebert and Scott Pfeifer, who have won a combined 11 World Championships and two Olympic gold medals.

After being one of the final cuts prior to the 2014 Sochi Games, Lacquette impressed during Canada's women's national hockey team's run-up to the 2018 Olympics.

The 25-year-old member of Saskatchewan's Cote First Nation tallied one point while patrolling the blue line during the team's recent four-game series with the archrival Americans, and is expected to enjoy plenty of time on the top pairing alongside star defenceman Laura Fortino, who set up Marie-Philip Poulin's gold medal-winning goal four years ago in Sochi.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

“By improving educational success, we can have a meaningful impact on the Cree Nation as a whole.”

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Abraham Jolly, Director General

Student success is the central goal of the Cree Nation.

The Cree School Board 2016-2021 Strategic Action Plan is concentrating on four areas that we believe will help us achieve this goal:

Educational Success
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Student, Parent, and Community Engagement
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Qualified, Competent, and Engaged Staff
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We believe we must meet this goal together. We encourage all students and our partners in education to continue their walk with us on the journey to a well-educated, successful Cree Nation.

Kathleen J. Wootton, Chairperson | Abraham Jolly, Director General

Download the Cree School Board 2016-2021 Strategic Action Plan from our website at www.cscree.qc.ca

In Brief

Grand Chief to receive **Order of Canada**

More than a dozen Indigenous people are being inducted into the Order of Canada. Grand Chief Abel Bosum joins fellow Cree Minnie Grey of Kuujjuaq and Inuk Gérard Duhaime of Nunavik as Members of the Order of Canada.

Members of the Order of Canada are recognized as making outstanding contributions at a local or regional level or in a special field of activity. Bosum was recognized "for his sustained leadership of and dedication to the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation and the development of the Eeyou Istchee Baie-James territory."

Bosum told *the Nation* he was deeply touched by the news. "It is an honour that I share with my wife, family, Cree leaders, advisers and the Cree people. It is something that I also share with many non-Cree people. All of us have worked together to make a brighter future for all. One that ensures the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, to have Cree rights respected and upheld and to improve living conditions in the Cree communities and the whole of Eeyou Istchee, our traditional territory."

Montreal appoints **Cree lawyer to key post**

Recently Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante has appointed Marie-Ève Bordeleau to a three-year term as the city's Commissioner of Indigenous Affairs.

A lawyer, Bordeleau will be working on a reconciliation strategy for Montreal when she starts at the end of January. Part of her duties will be to assist the mayor and executive on building better bridges with Indigenous residents and helping the city gain and include an Indigenous perspective in municipal laws and regulations. Bordeleau is a member of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi.

Cree man dies in police custody

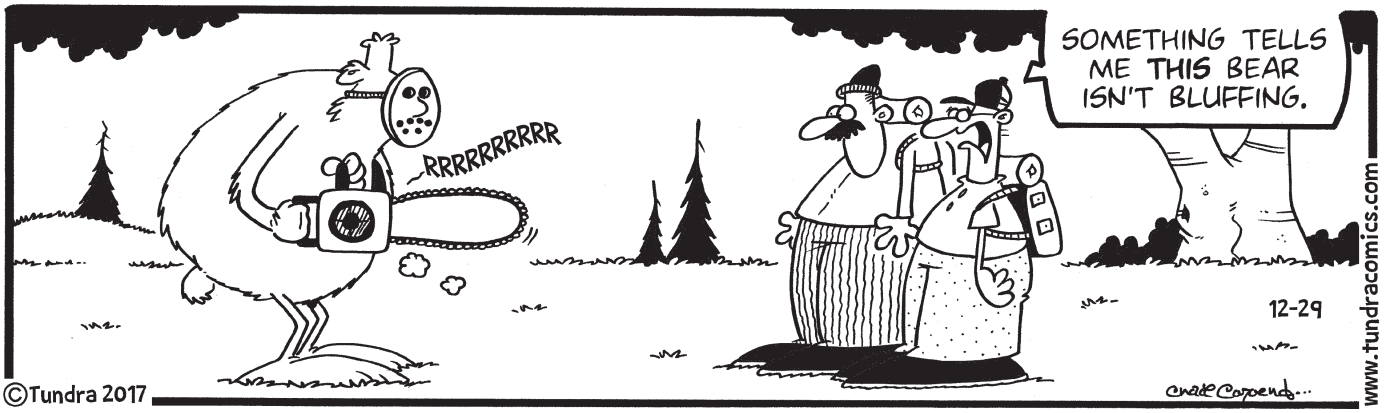
Brandon Stephen, 24, died January 2 while in custody of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force (EEPF) in Waskaganish. Stephen was taken into custody New Year's Day and complained of stomach pains that night. He was transferred to the community medical clinic and passed away early the next day. An autopsy will be conducted and Quebec's independent bureau of investigation (BEI) is reviewing Stephen's death.

CERP appoints **Cree Liaisons**

Quebec's public inquiry into the treatment of Indigenous Peoples by certain public services welcomed three new members to its Aboriginal Relations Team. Terrence Duff, Stella Bearskin and Manon Richmond are joining the inquiry as Liaison Officers and will work specifically with Cree communities.

Waskaganish Elder **celebrates centennial**

On New Year's Day, surrounded by friends and family, Mary Jacob Katapatuk blew out the candles on her 100th birthday cake. We here at *the Nation* wish you a very happy, belated birthday – and many more!



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The Nation's annual list of continuing education programs, colleges and universities

by Amy German & Dan Isaac

—Eeyou Istchee —

For those who want to stay in the communities while honing their skills for a new career, the Cree School Board and Cree Human Resources Development work together to offer a wide variety of vocational courses that meet Ministry of Education guidelines for students to be certified in their field of choice.

The following is an overview of Sabtuan training programs on offer within the territory between now and the month of June.

Chisasibi

Customer Service

New to the roster of community courses, Chisasibi will be offering a Customer Service program. This 540-hour course begins in Winter 2018.

Construction

Chisasibi also offers a Construction course to keep up with the construction boom in the north. This 1350-hour course is slated to begin January 29 and can lead to a very versatile career.

Accounting

For all those who like counting beans, a new Accounting course starts February 26 and runs for 1350 hours. If you are thinking of starting your own business and keeping your own books, or hoping to become an accountant for a local business, or taking a course to augment your regular administrative job, all of these reasons are good ones to sign up for this course.

Pharmacy Technical Assistance

For those interested in working with patients and their medication to ensure they get the right drugs and to assist a pharmacist, a new Pharmacy Technical Assistance course will be launched in Chisasibi March 26. This course runs 1320 hours.

Hotel Reception

As the economy of the north expands, so does its need for a local labour force. Running 735 hours, this new Hotel Reception course is ideal for those looking to work in the hotel industry and be a front-desk superstar. The course starts on March 19 in Chisasibi.

Bus Driving

With the rapidly growing Cree population, the need for bus drivers to safely drive the little ones to school is in high demand. This is why more bus-driving courses are being offered throughout the communities. This 210-hour program will begin January 29 in Chisasibi.

Starting a Business

For those who are free-spirited and would rather work for themselves, Chisasibi will be offering a Starting a Business program sometime this winter. This 330-hour course offers the basics to get you up-and-running so your dreams can take off.

Waswanipi

Bus Driving

Over at the Regional Vocational Training Centre, a bus-driving course will be offered for those inland residents who want to drive those large yellow vehicles filled with children. The course is slated to start sometime this winter.

Welding

Waswanipi is offering a General Welding course that starts on January

22 for those who enjoy the fine art of welding – and some really do!

Eastmain

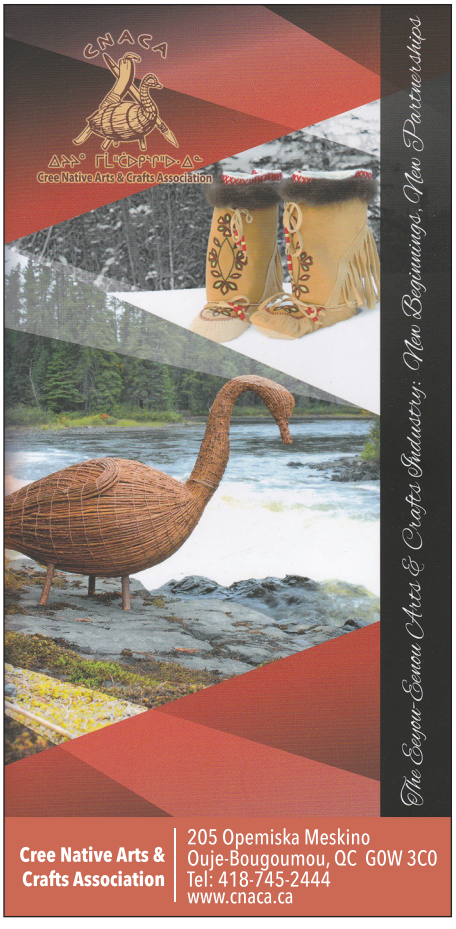
Trucking Class III

The Eastmain community will be offering a Trucking Class III program that will last 330 hours this winter for anyone looking to become a truck driver in the north. With a fast-growing population and lots of development, this is a position that will always be in demand.

Mistissini

Plastering

When it comes to those final touches right before painting, a plasterer will soften all the rough edges. Fortunately for those Mistissini residents who are looking to go into this field, a brand-new cohort is starting February 19. The 810-hour course will be producing workers essential to the construction industry.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Nemaska

Computer Graphics

Over in Nemaska, a new Computer Graphics course is opening up this spring for all of those burgeoning graphic designers in Eeyou Istchee who want to learn the trade. This 1800-hour course is the perfect program for those who feel digitally creative.

Waskaganish

Computing Support

Waskaganish is offering a Computing Support program for those who are computer savvy and want to help others who aren't. Support techs are always in high demand when you need to your computer to work properly. This program will run 1800 hours. Schedule to be announced.

Trucking Class III

Waskaganish will also be offering Trucking Class III, but they are not sure when.

The SRVTC

Over at the Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre in Waswanipi, a wide number of courses are opening up between now and June.

Landscaping Operations

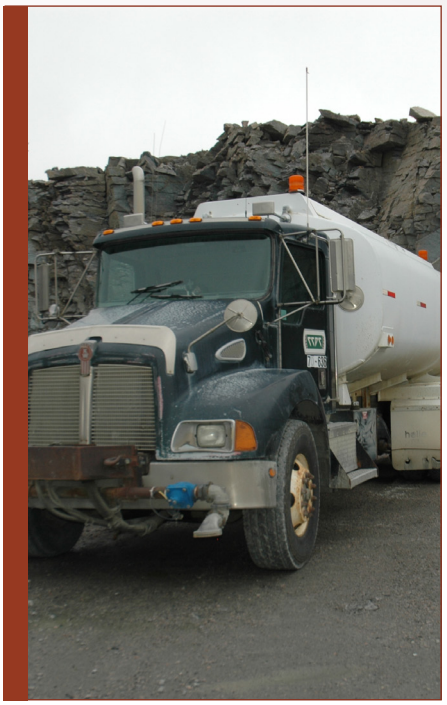
First up is the relatively new Landscaping Operations course, which runs 1035 hours and is set to start in the spring. While it may not seem like an obvious course to offer in the north, as it is a land known for its natural beauty, tweaking that beauty could be the cherry on the sundae.

Northern Heavy Equipment Operations

For those looking to get in on all of the natural resource development that's part of the Plan Nord, Northern Heavy Equipment Operations is just the ticket. Starting May 22, this 900-hour course will train you to be tackle your job with confidence.

Recreation Leadership

If you like to plan events and sport activities for youth and families in the communities, a new cohort of Recreation Leadership will start their studies this spring. It is the perfect job for the upbeat person who wants to get bodies moving, games going and fun happening for everybody. This course runs 1290 hours.



Trucking Class I

Interested in a trucking career, then keep an eye open for the Trucking Class I course that will start sometime this winter. This 615-hour course is very important because it's about learning how to manoeuvre a truck.

Automobile Aesthetics

Interested in jazzing up your ride and kicking it up a notch, an Automobile Aesthetics course is being offered this spring to all those who want to learn this highly artistic and commercial trade. Running 570 hours, you will be able to trick out all kinds of rides after taking this course.

Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing

For those looking to get in on the mining boom in the north, a new cohort of Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing will be opening up this spring. This versatile 900-hour course deals with a variety of minerals and mining techniques.

— Northern Quebec —

For those interested in staying close to home for school, the options below also help you on your educational path.

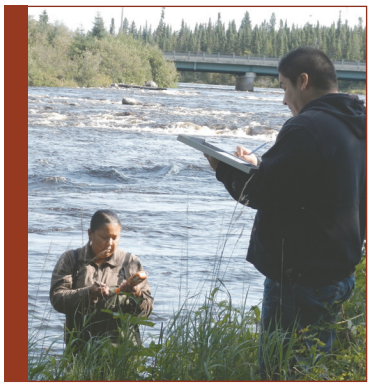
Cégep Saint-Félicien

For a career that allows you to enjoy the great outdoors, Cégep Saint-Félicien's main campus located near Lac Saint-Jean offers a variety of courses in French focused on tourism and wildlife. They offer the benefit of studying in a beautiful environment of forests, lakes, rivers and beaches. The Centre d'études collégiale à Chibougamau is another great option, offering college programs just an hour outside Mistissini.

All of the Cégep's training programs offered at the Chibougamau location are recognized by the Quebec Ministry of Education and earn their graduates a college diploma.
www.cegepstfe.ca

Milieu naturel

The "natural environment" program prepares students for a career as environmental technicians with a focus on sustainable development. Students in this program complete 18 months of general courses in the field before choosing one of four specializations: forestry, wildlife, natural heritage or environmental protection.



Soins infirmiers

Saint-Félicien's nursing program is challenging but rewarding. A few years of intense study will prepare you for Quebec's famously tough entry exam into l'Ordre des infirmières et des infirmiers du Québec and the demanding environment of a medical profession.

Tourisme

A tourism diploma prepares those with a love for travel and knack for customer service to develop and implement products and services related to the tourism industry. This a great program for those interested in sharing and exploring culture, learning a third or fourth language and branching out into the tourism sector as an employee or entrepreneur.

Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue has a campus in Val-d'Or that boasts a First Nations Student Services department that provides academic support and caters specifically to the needs of Aboriginal students. The Cégep offers a large range of full-time courses and continuing education services at its Val-d'Or, Rouyn-Noranda and Amos campuses and also gives individualized training and short programs in First Nations communities where they are in demand. Available programs include accounting, specialized education, child services education, organization management, management, marketing and customer service, community health and administration (mainly offered in French) all delivered in a First Nation and Inuit context.
www.cegepat.qc.ca/futurs-etudiants/formations-aux-premieres-nations/

Another interesting option is the Access to College program that pairs First Nations students with an academic advisor during their first semester to determine a manageable course load and develop a course plan that fits your needs and personal goals. The program aims to clarify your career choice, help you build good study habits, get the prerequisites required for the program of your choosing and ultimately improve your chances for success within the post-secondary education system. www.cegepat.qc.ca/programmes/access-to-college-first-nations/

GO FURTHER IN 2018

TAKE A VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

Chisasibi

- Accounting
- Carpentry
- Hotel Reception
- Bus Driving
- Customer Service
- Pharmacy Technical Assistance

Eastmain

- Trucking Class lll

Mistissini

- Plastering

Nemaska

- Computer Graphics

Waskaganish

- Trucking Class lll

Wemindji

- Bus Driving

Whapmagoostui

- Carpentry
- Plastering

Waswanipi (SRVTC)

- Automobile Aesthetics
- Bus Driving
- Landscaping Operations
- Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing
- Mining Mobil Mechanics
- Northern Heavy Equipment Operations
- Professional Cooking
- Recreation Leadership
- Semi-Automatic Welding
- Trucking Class 1

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION CONSULTANT

WWW.CSBSAES.CA

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Sabtuan Adult Education Services
Service de l'éducation des adultes Sabtuan

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Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre
Centre régional de formation professionnelle Sabtuan

Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

The Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) tailors a number of programs to Indigenous students. All of UQAT's programs are viable options for First Nations, but some are adapted to the unique cultural and learning approaches of First Nations and Inuit. These courses use teaching styles and course material that incorporate Aboriginal perspectives and reflect Indigenous realities.

If you're looking for university education near Eeyou Istchee, check out the variety of culturally sensitive programs that UQAT has to offer in English. UQAT offers all of the same programs with a few additional options en français.
www.uqat.ca

Aboriginal Studies

- Undergraduate Short Progam in Aboriginal Tourism Management
- Undergraduate Short Program in Childhood-Family Intervention in Aboriginal Context (Open to admission – Fall 2018)
- Undergraduate Short Program on Employability and Career Development in Aboriginal Context (Open to admission – Fall 2018)
- Certificate in Aboriginal Studies (Open to admission – Fall 2018)

Education

- Certificate in Plastic Arts
- Certificate in Primary Education for Substitute Teachers (Open to admission – Fall 2018)
- Bachelor in Preschool Education and Primary Teaching

Management

- Certificate in Human Resources Management
- Certificate in Administration (Open to admission – Fall 2018)
- Certificate in Management and Regional Development (Open to admission – Fall 2018)
- Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)

Social Work

- Bachelor of Social Work

Kiuna Institution

Located on the Odenak Reserve 35 minutes from Trois-Rivières, Kiuna Institution is tailored to First Nations students. Kiuna offers an orientation and integration semester followed by a transition semester that allows new students to smoothly adapt to college life. Students then have the opportunity to enrol in Kiuna's one-of-a-kind First Nations Social Science program.

With a diversified approach, Kiuna helps develop a strong sense of Aboriginal identity, heritage, rights and traditions before students choose a career path.
www.kiuna-college.com

— Southern Quebec & Ontario —

Colleges a bit further away to the west and south may have programs that better suit students' career choices.

Algonquin College

With its three campuses in Ottawa, Pembroke and Perth, as well as international exchange programs, Algonquin College has long been a popular choice for Cree high-school grads. The college offers over 140 pre-university programs, 260 Ontario college programs, five bachelor degree programs, and a plethora of online and apprentice programs as well as continuing education opportunities.

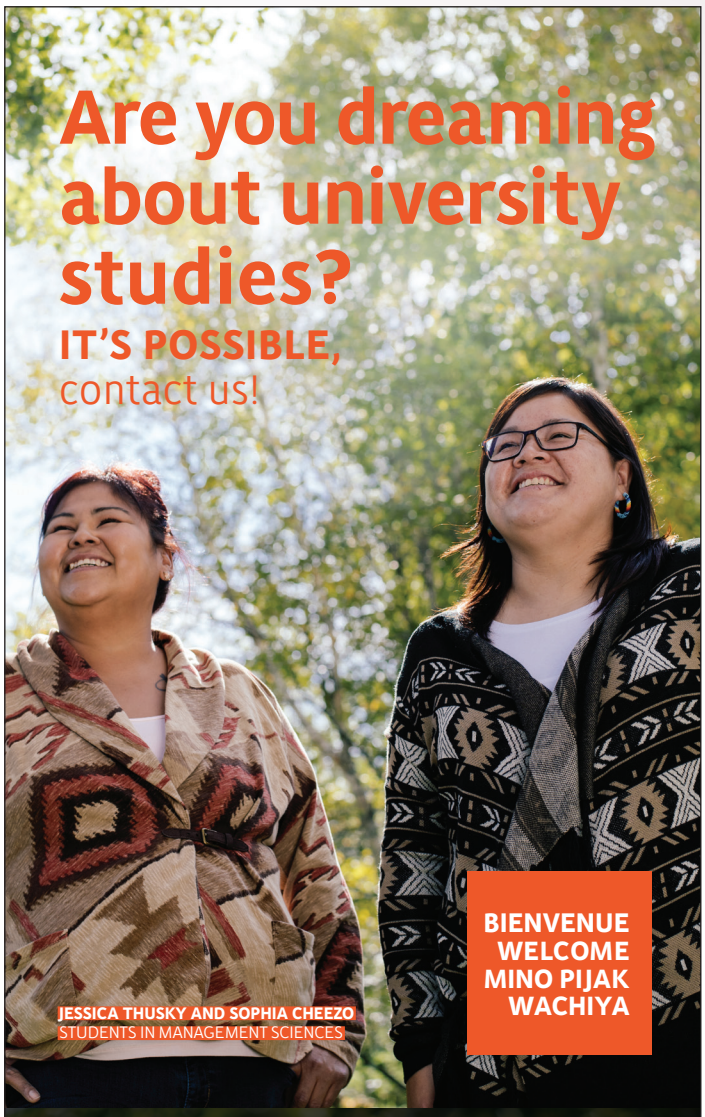
In Fall 2017, Algonquin College launched the Mamidosewin Centre, an Indigenous student centre that assists Native learners in a respectful, culturally informed way.
www.algonquincollege.com

Canadore College

Located on the territory of the Nipissing First Nation in North Bay, Ontario, Canadore College welcomes approximately 350 Indigenous students annually and offers some Indigenous specific programing. Canadore's Indigenous student centre hosts an annual powwow, has an Elder on staff, and encourages its students to enjoy its snowshoeing trails and sweat lodge.

Canadore also prides itself on smaller classes and one-on-one attention from academic advisors and personalized education.

Interested Indigenous students are encouraged to contact



PROGRAMS STARTING IN FALL 2018

Full time certificate (one year)

- Aboriginal Studies
- Elementary Education for Substitute Teachers
- Administration
- Management and Regional Development

Part time Undergraduate Short Program

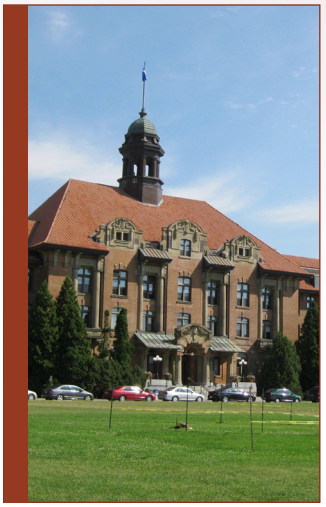
- Childhood-Family Intervention in Aboriginal Context
- Employability and Career Development in Aboriginal Context

Other programs are available in other domains, in French and/or in English.

Contact us! **uqat.ca/indigenous**

SUZIE RATTÉ
Agente de liaison autochtone / Aboriginal Liaison Officer
Tél. 819 874-8728 #6510
Sans frais (toll free)
1 866 891-8728 #6510
suzie.ratte@uqat.ca

UQAT
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE



Gerard Peltier, Recruitment and Retention Officer, at Gerard.Peltier@canadorecollege.ca
www.canadorecollege.ca

Champlain Regional College

An English-language Cégep with campuses located on Montreal's South Shore (near the Longueuil métro station), the Eastern Townships (in Lennoxville) and Sainte-Foy (Quebec City), Champlain offers pre-university courses as well as technical education and training programs.

Familiar with Indigenous populations, the college has been a partner of Kahnawake's Adult Education School Council and has adapted some of its programming for Indigenous students.
www.admin.crc-sher.qc.ca

Dawson College

Located in downtown Montreal, Dawson College is one of Quebec's largest Cégeps. Known for its theatre, photography, design and science programs, Dawson boasts a student initiative aimed at Indigenizing campus life. Among its goals is the creation of an Indigenous Studies certificate, which should launch in Fall 2018. For those worried about the language barrier, the First Peoples' Initiative also offers French classes and tutoring.

Dawson also offers the Journeys program, a one-year transition course designed to provide First Nations, Inuit and Métis students with a welcoming, holistic, supportive and culturally relevant environment for learning at the post-secondary level.
www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca

John Abbott College

Located in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue on Montreal's West Island, John Abbott has hosted an Indigenous Student Resource Centre since 1990. In collaboration with Indigenous communities and institutions such as the Cree School Board, the centre has developed programing and provides services that address the unique needs and perspectives of Indigenous students.

The school also offers Crossroads, a two-semester program designed to prepare Indigenous students for the expectations of college life as well as to guide them into the pre-university or career program of their choice.
www.johnabbott.qc.ca

Sault College

Located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Sault College offers a wide range of technical programs that includes an award-winning aviation program. Its smaller class sizes and renowned facilities contribute to the college's 91% employment rate within six months of graduating.

In addition to its technical programs, the college offers several full-time Indigenous

Studies certificates as well as one of the few certified Indigenous language (Anishnabe) immersion programs offered in North America.

The college recognizes the unique perspective of Indigenous and Métis people and does its best to incorporate a diversity of worldviews in its programming.

www.saultcollege.ca

Vanier College

Located in Montreal's multi-cultural Saint-Laurent borough, Vanier is an English-language Cégep renowned for its arts, science and technical programs. Vanier offers pre-university programming that helps its students decide what post-secondary path fits them best.

The college also has its own Indigenous Circle that hosts events and supports Indigenous students socially and academically as they transition from their community to urban life in Montreal. The Circle is in the process of creating an Indigenous Studies certificate.

www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/

— Universities —

The institutions below were selected to highlight some of the more innovative Indigenous programs being implemented in universities across the country. And while Indigenous student unions and support systems haven't been around for long, in many cases, they have become the standard and not the exception. So whatever field you want to study at whatever school you end up choosing, you can rest assured that there's a support system in place and an Indigenous community there already that want to see you succeed.

And we here at *the Nation* know you will.

Bishops University

Bishop's is an English university located in Lennoxville (in the Eastern Townships), and boasts some of the smallest class sizes in the country. 2016 marked a turning point in Bishop's approach to reconciliation. That year, Abel Bosum gave a convocation speech to its graduates and received an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law. Since then the university has hosted symposiums dedicated to reconciliation and decolonization, conducted community-based research and committed to creating a new way forward with Indigenous Peoples as partners.

The university offers a Minor in Indigenous Studies through its History department.

www.ubishops.ca

Capilano University

For those interested in film, Capilano University's Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking (IIDF) program may be for you. The program is the only one of its kind in the country and teaches its all-Indigenous student body every aspect of filmmaking including screenwriting, camera and lighting techniques, editing and post-production effects.

Located in North Vancouver, BC, the school is quite far from Eeyou Istchee but the picturesque scenery and forest surrounding the campus might make up for the homesickness.

www.capilanou.ca

Carleton University

Carelton is located in Ottawa and is the home of the Ojigkwanong (Algonquin for morning star) Centre and the Carleton Centre for Indigenous Initiatives. The two centres work in unison to support Indigenous students and create linkages between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Carelton has its own school of Indigenous and Canadian Studies offering both undergrad and graduate programs in the discipline.

Carleton offers the Indigenous Enriched Support Program to help Indigenous students cope with university level workloads while they take their first year courses.

www.carleton.ca

Concordia University

Concordia has two campuses in Montreal – one downtown at the corner of Guy and St. Catherine, and

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Make a Difference in Federal Elections
Be a Returning Officer

Your opportunity to serve democracy in Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou

The work of a returning officer is challenging and rewarding. If you're a leader with management experience and knowledge of your community, this may be the job for you.

As a returning officer, you will plan and manage federal elections in your riding during a ten-year appointment. You will represent Elections Canada and be on the front line for electors and candidates.

The hours of work vary between elections, but increase significantly in the year leading up to an election.

To qualify as a returning officer, you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and live in the federal riding where you're applying to work. The ability to communicate in both official languages will be used in the final selection of a candidate.

To find out more about the role of a returning officer and how to apply, go to elections.ca and click on Employment or call 1-800-463-6868.

The online application will be available from January 19 to February 9, 2018.

Ready to vote

Elections Canada

Elections Canada is an independent body set up by Parliament to conduct federal elections, by-elections and referendums.

another in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. The university has a well-established Aboriginal Students Union that's always ready to support and assist its members. And for the budding filmmaker who wants to stay in Quebec, Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema is widely regarded as one of Canada's best film schools.

The university also offers its own First Peoples Studies BA program with options for both a Major and Minor.
www.concordia.ca

McGill University

McGill is one of the most prestigious universities in Canada and is located in the heart of Montreal. It hosts an annual powwow every September through its vibrant First Peoples' House. The university offers a plethora of Indigenous-focused programming, including Global and Indigenous Health Nursing, Indigenous Studies, and in 2017 launched a mandatory week-long law course called Indigenous Legal Traditions. In addition, the McGill Law School is committed to becoming one of Canada's leading faculties in Indigenous legal studies.
www.mcgill.ca

Mount Royal University

Located in Calgary, on Blackfoot Territory, Mount Royal University committed itself to rebuilding relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of the territory in 2013. Since then, the university has developed Indigenous-specific programing and the Inskim Centre. The centre offers programs and services to increase the engagement and success of Indigenous students and raise awareness of Indigenous peoples and cultures, while the programming incudes the Aboriginal Education Program, the Aboriginal Science and Technology Education Program, the Indigenous Housing Program, and the Medicine Trail Program.

For the creative, entrepreneurial types, the school hosts Otahpiaaki, a marketing, entrepreneurship, and social-innovation project linked to academic programs in the Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal. The program also hosts an annual Indigenous Beauty, Fashion and Design Week.
www.mtroyal.ca

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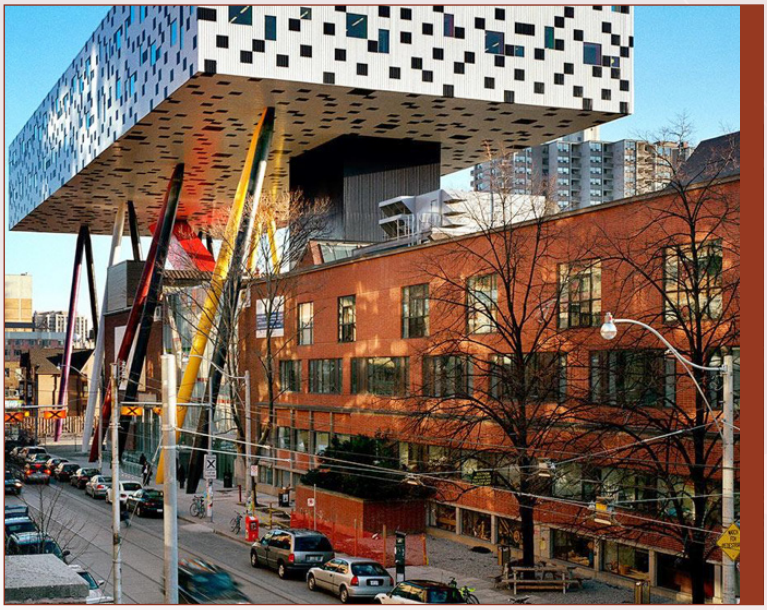
Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) University

Billed as the largest and most comprehensive design-and-media university in the country, OCAD (formerly Ontario College of Art and Design) has the programming to build all the skills necessary for a career in the visual arts. They also host the traditionally inspired and culturally relevant, Indigenous Visual Culture program, a studio-based arts program that incorporates the culture and socio-political history of Indigenous Peoples.
www.ocadu.ca



Trent University

Located in Peterborough, Ontario, Trent University has incorporated an Indigenous lens in its programming for over 50 years. In fact, they were the first Canadian post-secondary institution to dedicate an academic department to Indigenous Studies. Today, Trent offers Indigenous Environmental Studies, as well as a two-year MA program in Indigenous Canadian Studies it runs in partnership with Carleton University.
www.trentu.ca

University of British Columbia (UBC)

For those interested in a career in health, UBC might be for you. Located on Musqueam territory in Vancouver, UBC's Aboriginal admission policy set a goal in 2002 to graduate 50 Indigenous doctors by 2020. In 2015, they hit their target five years early. UBC is also home to the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health, the Museum of Anthropology, a longhouse, and the recently erected reconciliation totem pole. The university also offers a specialization in Aboriginal Law at its Allard School of Law.
www.ubc.ca

University of Calgary

Each year at the University of Calgary, graduates from the previous academic year are honoured with a banquet and powwow, and the school is committed to creating a vibrant Indigenous community within its student body. The university's Native Student Centre organizes events throughout the year and has several Indigenous-focused academic offerings. In addition to one-year university transition programs and Indigenous Studies degrees, U of C offers an International Indigenous Studies course that encourages both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to increase their understanding of global Indigenous culture.
www.ucalgary.ca

University of Manitoba

The University of Manitoba in Winnipeg has an extensive list of Indigenous programing. From social work and health science to business and engineering, the university prides itself on its Indigenous programs and assisting Indigenous students access to any academic discipline they choose.
www.umanitoba.ca

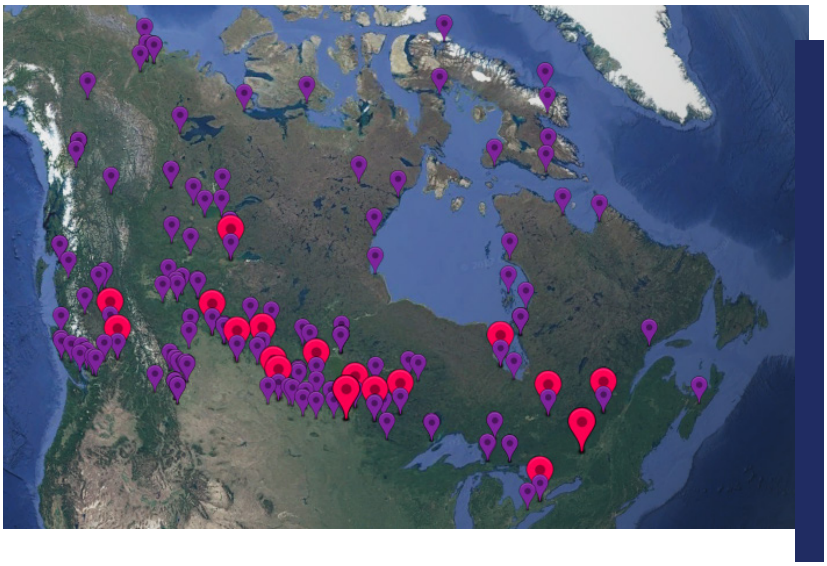
University of Ottawa

In 2015, the University of Ottawa adopted the TRC's 13 principles of Indigenous education and strives to bring reconciliation into the classroom. In addition to including Indigenous content into many of its faculties and course offerings, the university hosts the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP), a three-year community-based certificate course whereupon completion, candidates are recommended to the Ontario College of Teachers for certification and for the Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) designation.
www.uottawa.ca

University of Toronto

With campuses located in downtown Toronto and the neighbouring borough of Scarborough, the renowned U of T has been challenging McGill for the title of Canada's most prestigious school for years. The university has a strong Indigenous presence with its Indigenous Initiatives Office, Indigenous Students Centre, Centre for Indigenous Studies, an Indigenous Law Students' Association and a resident Elder on campus.
www.studentlife.utoronto.ca

Mapping a tragedy



Canadian Geographic and Google Launch **Residential Schools Education Project**

by Ben Powless

Within the span of a few minutes, students can travel from the first residential school in Brantford, Ontario, through to residential schools in Amos, Quebec, all the way to Kamloops, BC.

Along the way, they'll learn about government objectives behind the schools, the devastating impacts of culture and language loss, physical and sexual abuse, and, finally, efforts to begin healing and reconciliation.

That's the intention behind a new project launched by Canadian Geographic Education (Can Geo Education) and Google Earth Voyager, with support from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR). It's available to anyone online, but is intended as a resource for teachers across the country.

It features historical photos, videos and survivors' testimony selected from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reports.

"The Google Earth's Voyageur residential school story is an extremely important tool that encourages discussion in a way that complements the learning styles of today's students," NCTR Director Ry Moran said in a press release. "This is exactly what we need for a tough topic like the residential school story, if reconciliation is to begin."

Google launched its Google Earth Voyager platform in the summer of 2017, and asked Can Geo Education if they were interested in creating a story to be told through the platform.

Sara Black, Education Programs Coordinator for the Royal Canadian Geographic Society, thought the proposal could be a great opportunity to create a free, interactive and educational resource for classrooms.

"Many teachers didn't know Google Earth Voyager stories existed. When we told them that our first one was Indigenous themed, many were excited – many were looking to include more Indigenous resources and content," Black said.

Comments have been very positive so far, she notes, even though the project was only launched in December. She described a number of teachers in North Bay using the tool and being surprised how close they were to a former residential school location.

She hopes it can serve as a tool to help educate children on a dark part of Canadian history as a starting point to bigger discussions.

Raymond Frogner, Head of Archives with the NCTR, observes that the story has never been fully told or recognized.

"The residential schools program was a program of cultural genocide designed to remove Indigenous worldviews, perspectives, languages and family ties, and propel assimilation into settler society," Frogner explained. "There's a need for understanding, and education is a way that that's possible."

The NCTR sees this project as a way to enable the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action around education.

He cites the TRC Chief Commissioner, Justice Murray Sinclair, who said it took seven generations for Indigenous Peoples to lose their identity – and that it would take another seven to bring them back.

Already, Frogner says the Alberta Ministry of Education is considering introducing Indigenous issues from kindergarten to Grade 12, while using the Google Earth Voyageur tool to help tell the story.

The project is available in English, French and a variety of other languages translated by Google. Black says that while it is not currently available in Indigenous languages, it is something they would like to see happen.

The project is online at earth.app.goo.gl/iL67

The Christmas Break

The Nation's youth correspondent on the dark side of the holidays

by Trey Turner

The holidays are a time to spend with family and friends. Joyful gift-giving, beautiful decorations… it's wonderful. This is why the Cree School Board funds student travel costs for the holidays so they can see the people they missed while down south. For some students, however, the holidays remind them of the great opportunity the CSB provided them to escape their home life. Why is that? Well, let's start from the beginning.

On December 22, the first days of Christmas break arrived. I usually spend my holidays with my father over in Moose Factory, but due to travel complications last time, we decided not to. So for Christmas 2017 and New Year's 2018, I stayed in Mistissini. If I were to recount my holidays to somebody, I would say that I hibernated for about two weeks. That's not too far off of what I actually did. I stayed home, rarely went outside, slept till noon (and sometimes sundown), and played video games. I was basically a hermit.

That was until Christmas Eve, when my two sisters and seven-year-old nephew came home from North Bay and Ottawa. They would stay at their grandparents' house and visit us every so often. I enjoyed playing Minecraft and other video games with my nephew and sometimes the whole house would participate in a board game or two. However, their visit was brief due to the five-week labour strike at Ontario colleges, which meant students had a much shorter holiday break this year.

My Christmas was great. I received a Nintendo Switch with a copy of Super Mario Odyssey and a lot of clothes. My nephew was also given a Switch but with Mario Kart 8 Deluxe. So we continued the tradition of playing video games together in the living room.

Every year, our family gathers for a Christmas feast at our Gookum's house. The house was full of aunts, uncles and cousins; some from out of town and others I rarely see around the community. I maybe spoke about five words during this gathering because it was so awkward and I only wanted to go home. But I couldn't leave without receiving my gifts! I got a board game, clothes, an American chocolate bar and an amazing down-feather blanket I am now using every day. They were all from "Santa," but to those who actually bought me these gifts, I thank you so much.

Two weeks can be more than enough to experience the holidays with your family, though. After Christmas Day, the weird, grey period between Christmas and New Year's began. Christmas decorations stayed up long after the day, but nobody cared. The entire population is hung over for a week and everyone's sleep schedules are reversed. New Year's, in fact, was emotionally scarring. I won't name names but I feel the need to talk about it.

New Year's Eve was a blunt reminder of the addiction, parenting and education problems we face in the Cree Nation. It's a celebration of the coming of the New Year that lasts past midnight and typically involves parties, fireworks and alcohol. I always thought of the holiday as mundane, with me usually viewing countdowns on TV and going to bed. This year, however, my view completely changed. First, it started with a couple of people. My nephew and I were just chilling in my room, away from the visitors so I was like, "Okay, this'll be like any other house party, I'll just lay low in my room till it all blows over." Oh boy, was I wrong.

A couple came into the house with their son, who is about nine years old. So it my seven-year-old nephew, a nine-year-old and myself taking shelter from the party. We drowned out the country music they were playing upstairs with the video games we played. It probably wasn't evident at the time, but I felt an underlying feeling of worry the whole time. As I do every time people get drunk in the house, it was for a good reason.

Earlier that day, I was playing video games online with my friends. They joked that they would come over to my house to celebrate New Year's. At least, I thought it was a joke. I laughed and it slid under the rug. I would have never guessed that during the time that the Minor Squad TM would be taking shelter from the party upstairs, a group of my friends would enter my house. They burst through

my bedroom door and took over my room. I was taken aback and thought, "This night could not have gotten any worse."

But it did. It was like when you were at a friend's house and they got into an argument with one of their parents and you just had to sit there and wish you never existed, but multiplied by a thousand.

So I kicked my nephew and his new friend out to play on my Switch in the other room. I thought it would be fine. Maybe an hour passed. Then my two sisters arrived and took my nephew away to go to bed. They said that everything looked fine with the house and waved goodbye to my mom.

Perhaps another hour passed and my friends mentioned a drunken man yelling upstairs. Something that shouldn't be familiar in any household is so familiar to us that it sounds like music. I decided to investigate. That's when I heard my younger sister, who had been out of the house this whole time, scream in terror.

A curtain from a front window had been torn off the wall. A man, drunk and angry, glared at my sister with his arm raised and his calloused fist clenched. His drunken girlfriend held him back as all the other visitors screamed at him to stop. Luckily, he did and went to comfort my shocked sister. We both yelled at everyone to leave.

Soon, it was just me, my sister and my mother in a group hug. After we made up, one of my friends came up from downstairs, grabbed a garbage bag and began cleaning up. I went back to my friends, my mom watched a movie alone and my sister went to bed. I stayed up all night that night. I also made nachos and happily watched part of a movie with my mom. So my New Year's had a happy ending but it was far from good.

The whole incident reminded me of a conversation with my cousin and one of my sisters about alcoholism among people close to us. She didn't care, my sister said, because she wasn't going to live here anymore. That conversation really hammered home my motivation to attend college.

I think it is probably the same for a lot of students in the Cree Nation. Nothing is more inspiring than the idea of escape. Escape from the alcohol, drugs and abuse in a small community. To all students in terrible households or situations, you don't have to stay here. You can leave. You need to learn. The CSB will help you. They will help us all. Don't forget to come back, though. You need to see your friends and family. You need to see your home. And you need to see that you can make things better.

Phew! Sorry, just needed to get that off my chest. So yeah, besides that, my holiday was great! I'd like to close this off with a message to the students: Stay in school, it's all you got! And a message to the adults: Drink responsibly, and find a babysitter for your kids next time!

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Public Notice

Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

The Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) invites the general public to express its opinion of the logging and forestry activities included in the 2018-2023 integrated operational forest development plans for the Nord-du-Québec region. The consultation will take place from **January 22 to February 16, 2018**.

A variety of work will be performed in the forest in the coming years. The integrated operational forest development plans clearly show the sectors in which logging, land preparation, reforestation, slashing and other operations may be carried out. Roads and infrastructures must also be built or improved to provide access to the sectors in question.

The MFFP's professionals would like to hear any concerns that forest users may have about the proposed forestry activities. You are invited to come and meet them at the following information sessions:

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNITS	DATE AND TIME	PLACE
8551 and 8562	**January 22, 2018**, starting at midday	**Beaucanton:** Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building (2709, Boulevard du Curé-McDuff)
8751, 8762, 8763 and 8764	**January 30, 2018**, starting at midday	**Lebel-sur-Quévillon:** Room N°. 2, Town Hall (500, Place Quévillon)
8652, 8663, 8664, 8665 and 8666	**January 29, 2018**, starting at midday	**Matagami:** Xstrata Room, Hôtel-Motel Matagami (99, Boulevard Matagami)
2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665 and 2666	**February 2, 2018**, starting at midday	**Chibougamau:** Council Room, Town Hall (650, 3e Rue)

You may also consult the plans and submit your comments online, via the MFFP's website (http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/consultation-amenagement.jsp), throughout the consultation period, or you may go in person to the MFFP's offices during regular office hours. We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have and respond to your concerns about the proposed sites.

Chibougamau Management Unit
624, 3e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Telephone: 418 748-2647
Fax: 418 748-3359

Lebel-sur-Quévillon Management Unit
1121, Boulevard Industriel, P.O. Box 159
Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Québec) J0Y 1X0
Telephone: 819 755-4838
Fax: 819 755-3541

Mont-Plamondon Management Unit
645, 1re Rue Est
La Sarre (Québec) J9Z 3P3
Telephone: 819 339-7521
Fax: 819 339-7696

Harricana-Nord Management Unit
1122, Route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Telephone: 819 444-5238
Fax: 819 444-5837

IMPORTANT: If you would like to be notified of future MFFP consultations in the Nord-du-Québec region, please contact christine.morin@mffp.gouv.qc.ca, and enter *Request to be entered on the distribution list* in the message header.

Québec

Department of
Justice and Correctional Services
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A reason for school

by Sonny Orr

Our hands were getting a little numb as we used a simple handheld hole punch on cards that looked like those you'd punch in and out at a factory. These cards contained simple commands for a massive computer the size of a large boiler assembly. It had one data input, where we fed the machine with hundreds of cards. Eventually, we got the answer and entered it into our handwritten worksheet assignment: calculate the amount of fuel needed to lift a Saturn V rocket into space.

My lab partner – who, I'm sure, now works as a modern-day rocket scientist in Korea – and I submitted our findings to the professor. It was the late 1970s and we were on the computing cutting edge with our dinosaur technology. By today's standards, if the same technology was used to produce what we now hold in our hand to Facebook with, the computer would be the size of the Empire State Building.

Education back then was limited to what was available. Most of my classmates were in vocational school, like mechanics. In those days, the big technology was based on the size of the engine under the hood and "digital" was unheard of. Today, just to be able to work in the tech department of any company takes schooling and interest in the sciences.

I watch young children wrestle with any handheld and soon enough they are able to use it just as easily as it was for me to bat a ball. The big difference was that a bat didn't need upgrading, only the arm muscles did. Perhaps I'm looking too far back for many as no one born in this century has witnessed such rapid change as my generation did. The old school was our backyards; today's school is the entire universe.

So what can we do to benefit from all this technology? Go to school and learn your math and leapfrog into the quantum world. We all know that our heritage is our driving force leading us to the future, but the future is going to be completely different from when it was thought out in an agreement three decades ago. Tomorrow's world needs people who want to live in it at par with the rest of the world, while still maintaining our heritage and culture.

Tomorrow's world needs people who want to live in it at par with the rest of the world, while still maintaining our heritage and culture.

In fact, we have been doing business for several centuries using our heritage, while benefitting those who retailed our products in the fur industry. Today I suppose that could shift to some high-tech land management and wildlife setup to keep our harvesting culture intact and maintain control over our territory. We need to use new technologies in wildlife and forest sciences and engineering. Of course, our own traditional knowledge will play a big part.

So get smart, go to school. Now!

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Under the Northern Sky

A rough start to 2018

by Xavier Kataquapit

I struggled with Influenza A for more than two weeks over the holiday season. This flu strain is circulating across Canada, making people seriously sick in southern Ontario and now in the north. I've had serious flus in the past and in particular one that I picked up travelling in Asia and India. That flu took me months to get over.

This flu has been wicked and I am still recovering. I do my best to stay in good health, and am in good shape so I survived it. But many people over 65, people with health complications and the very young actually die from this influenza. Influenza A is a killer for some and that's why we should be informing the public that it's in the area. Elderly people should be very careful and we should all take great care in making sure we don't pass it on to them.

Complications from the flu can include pneumonia. On average, the flu sends about 12,200 patients to hospitals and causes 3,500 deaths in Canada. Symptoms of the flu appear about one to four days after you have picked it up but it is very contagious right from the start, before you have any symptoms. This means it spreads rapidly and is far reaching. If you're lucky, you will recover in a week or two but sometimes people get secondary infections that are bacterial and end up with pneumonia and other dangerous conditions.

Symptoms of the flu can include fever, headache, cough, chills, stuffed-up feeling, sore throat, weakness and loss of appetite. Influenza A is more serious than its cousins B and C and must be treated early on. See your doctor if you think you have it. I've heard reports that there is limited swabbing these days to test for which kind of flu you have so I'm not sure what that means in terms of the big picture.

I went to see a medical professional at the local clinic, but I had to push to get in to see him. He checked my lungs and suggested I seemed to be doing well with it, but prescribed an antibiotic and puffer for my friend who is older. He also had an X-ray done of my friend's lungs and that information showed that there was some concern. He ended up taking the antibiotic with the concern that there might be the risk of pneumonia in his case. The doctor suggested we keep up with what we had been doing in resting, staying warm, drinking lots of liquids and taking vitamin C. Many people believe in taking natural remedies like essential oils. I tried oil of oregano and I think it helped but I am not at all that sure.

The problem with Influenza A is that it can get away on you very quickly so if you are at risk you should see your doctor as early as possible. There is a pushback from the medical community that suggests people should stay home, get rest and drink lots of liquids rather than show up at emergency where you might just make others sick too. However, you are your own best health advocate when it comes down to it and if you are concerned then get to a doctor and if necessary get to emerge.

On another northern health and safety note I was very sad to hear that Gilbert Cheechoo Sr., of Moose Cree First Nation, passed away after a recent automobile accident on icy northern roads. I always enjoyed meeting Gilbert as he was so encouraging towards me. He believed that young Aboriginal people were the future and he did his very best to blaze the trail for us. He was an excellent manager, political figure and traditional man. My condolences go out to his family, friends and all the people of the James Bay coast in the wake of such a huge loss. Meegwetch Gilbert for your kindness, humour, energy and strength that you shared so freely with us all. We need to do something to stop the tragic deaths that occur on our dangerous, icy northern roads. Maybe it is time to bring back the trains.

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